

several years and is retiring as the director of the social studies department at Brown High School in Sturgis. He has served as a city council member for the City of Sturgis and has maintained a strong interest in community affairs and city, county and state government. He has performed technical direction for the South Dakota State Junior Miss program since 1970, and currently serves as the technical advisor for the Sturgis Community Center Theater. He is a member of the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, serving on several committees, and is a member of the Fort Meade Museum Board, the Sturgis Area Arts Council and is very active as an elder, choir member and leader with the Presbyterian Church. For the past dozen years, he has also owned and operated a successful photographic studio and gallery in Sturgis and most recently, he has become a volunteer fireman and earned the credentials as information officer. If there were any time left in the day, he would find time to fill it and provide counsel to his students or provide service to his community.

I have met Maury several times during my visits to Sturgis High School and the community of Sturgis. He is definitely a mover and shaker in the community of Sturgis and is very well-respected by both current students and alumni for his skills and abilities as an instructor and for the way he has shaped the lives and futures of those he has tutored over three decades. He is very focused and knowledgeable of local, state and federal politics and issues.

On the occasion of his retirement as a public school educator, I want to congratulate Maurice LaRue for his tireless dedication to his students, his commitment to finding the best in his students and for helping his students to 'communicate' with the world. I also want to commend him for his valuable service to his community over the years. Instead of hiding behind a textbook or staying at the chalkboard, Maurice LaRue has provided his many students over the years with his own example of being active in school and community. He has motivated the lives of many students and many of them would point to Maury as playing a pivotal role in their lives. Can there be any better reward for 33 years of dedicated teaching and community service!

I wish Maurice LaRue the best on his retirement.●

IN HONOR OF ENTERTAINER AND COMMUNITY LEADER PAT BOONE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the name Pat Boone rings synonymous with musical success. Pat has registered 60 songs on the musical charts with eighteen reaching the Top Ten and six reaching Number One. His recording career has spanned five decades—from the 1950s to the 1990s—and compilation albums are reaching a new generation of fans in the 21st century. Indeed, few

entertainers can claim a more sustained career of success than Pat Boone.

Pat's success has even extended beyond music. He starred in fifteen films for 20th Century Fox. He hosted two weekly television variety shows—the Pat Boone Chevy Showroom and the Pat Boone Show. He has been a constant presence on radio both as a musician and as a show host. He has also found time to write several books about teenage life and, more recently, religion and family.

Pat donated all proceeds from his first book—*Twist Twelve and Twenty*—to the Northeastern Institute of Christian Education. This was a sign of good things to come. Throughout his career, Pat Boone has generously given his support to countless charitable organizations. Perhaps most notably, he has served as spokesman, national chairman, and host of the Easter Seal Society Telethon for almost two decades.

Though Pat has attained worldwide fame, he has never forgotten his Tennessee roots. This is especially true for his charity work on behalf of Bethel Bible Village. For the last 25 years, Pat has been the celebrity host of the Bethel Bible Village Spectacular Golf Tournament. He has helped raise more than \$1.3 billion for Bethel and bring it national recognition as a premier facility for the care of troubled and at-risk children.

Pat Boone is one of the most successful entertainers of our time; he's also one of the most caring and compassionate community leaders in America today. Pat has always put community first—whether it's the close-knit community of his family or the broader community of charitable organizations. I offer this statement to Pat Boone in recognition of a career of success and gratitude for a life of giving.●

RECOGNIZING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In recent years, Americans have experienced an energizing infusion of Asian-based culture, which resonates in diverse folkways, cuisine, art forms, and religious beliefs and practices. In all these areas, I believe Minnesota is especially privileged, thanks to Asian American citizens who present a unique, vigorous dimension, both established and emerging. Therefore, I would like to highlight the ways that Asian Pacific Americans in particular have enriched our state.

We who make Minnesota our home truly comprise an international community. The Asian Pacific American presence in my state dates from the late nineteenth century, when Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino settlers first arrived. Today, many more groups, such as the Koreans, Asian Indians, Tibetans, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Cambodians, have augmented Minnesota's

Asian Pacific community. This growth is ongoing, and I am pleased to say that in my state, the Asian Pacific American population increased over 100 percent in the last decade. Furthermore, the City of Saint Paul is distinguished by the largest Hmong population in the nation.

The Asian Pacific population has significantly contributed to the economic, social, and political fabric of Minnesota. In the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Asian entrepreneurs have succeeded in re-establishing key business districts in areas once dormant, leading to the revitalization of entire neighborhoods. These Americans have further invested in Minnesota through unprecedented rates of home ownership. In greater Minnesota, Asian Pacific Americans are also being welcomed. For example, Warroad, Minnesota, always a notable breeding ground for great hockey players, is now also home to a small but vibrant Lao population. Moreover, I am very proud to say that Minnesota has elected our nation's first Hmong legislator, State Senator Mee Moua.

The State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans has chosen five individuals or groups who have made especially worthy contributions, and I would like to acknowledge these remarkable award winners.

Joseph Hui, who has resided in Minnesota for 30 years, has built a successful business career, but, more importantly, he has given back generously through community service and philanthropy. He was one of the founders of the Asian Pacific Endowment for Community Development, a fund directed and operated by Asian Americans. The fund encourages different Asian Pacific communities to work together in providing social, health, educational, economic, and cultural services. Thus far, the fund has given approximately \$300,000 in grant money to more than 60 organizations.

Rita Mitra Mustaphi, a renowned choreographer, dancer, and educator, introduced the classical Indian dance form, Kathak, to Minnesota. She uses this 2000-year-old form of storytelling, essentially dance-poems, to explore bold, contemporary themes. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the Kathak Dance Theatre, which is the only professional dance theater of its kind in the Midwest. The theater received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create and perform a new dance theater piece.

Another artistic innovator, Rick Shiomi, is a leading Asian American artist. He is the founder of Mu Daiko, a taiko drumming troop, and the Artistic Director of Theater Mu, a group primarily cultivating new Minnesota playwrights and Asian American actors. Blending ancient artistic forms, traditions, and stories with contemporary ones, these performers are dedicated to the ideal of theater as a total sensory experience. Their unique work reaches new audiences through Theater